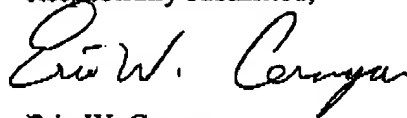


No ruling has ever been obtained on that petition. Today, on June 16, 2003, a new 37 C.F.R. § 1.47 petition was filed by facsimile directly to the Office of Petitions. The undersigned is hopeful, based on the proofs presented, that the petition will be granted. On the basis of Applicants' claim for priority to the PCT application to Connolly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 23-60 be withdrawn. Believing it has addressed all matters raised in the Examiner's March 23, 2003, Office Action, Applicants respectfully ask that the application be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,



Eric W. Cernyar
Reg. No. 45,919
Kinetic Concepts, Inc.
P.O. Box 659508
San Antonio, TX 78265
(210) 863-0063

Date: 6-16-2003